

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-07 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 INRE-00

CU-05 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /119 W

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O 071355Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9248

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

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DEPT FOR AF/C CUTLER

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/HOORAN

SECDEF FOR ISA/ELLSWORTH

USIA FOR MCGINLEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL CG

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR US GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO FESTIVAL OF
ZAIRE 74

1. AMBASSADOR VISITED LATE SEPTEMBER 6 BY ALAN PARISER
AND HUGH MASEKELA, EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR AND PRODUCER
RESPECTIVELY, OF "ZAIRE '74", FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN AND AFRICAN
ENTERTAINERS WHO WILL PERFORM PRIOR TO ALI-FOREMAN
FIGHT SEPTEMBER 20, 21, AND 22. PARISER WAS PREVIOUSLY
ASSOCIATED WITH MAJOR PRODUCTIONS SUCH AS MONTEREY POP
AND WOODSTOCK, AND MASEKELA, FORMER HUSBAND OF MIRIAM MAKEBA,
WHOSE POLITICAL VIEWS HE DOES NOT REPORT NOT SHARE, AND TOP-FLIGHT MUSIC
IAN

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IN OWN RIGHT, IS WELL-CONNECTED IN BOTH AFRICAN AND AMERICAN ENTER-

TAINMENT CIRCLES.

2. FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOZ, HAVE ALREADY SIGNED TOTAL OF OVER 150 AMERICAN ENTERTAINERS FOR SHOW, INCLUDING JAMES BROWN, B.B. KING, MIRIAM MAKEBA, THE CRUSADERS, THE SPINNERS, THE FANI LATIN-ALL-STARS (AFRO-CUBAN GROUP FROM NEW YORK) WITH STEVIE WONDER A POSSIBILITY. AMERICANS, IN CONCERT WITH MAJOR ZAIRIAN AND OTHER AFRICAN ENTERTAINERS, WILL PERFORM THREE CONSECUTIVE EVENINGS PRIOR TO SEPT 24 FIGHT IN FRONT OF WHAT WE ANTICIPATE TO BE STANDING-ROOM-ONLY CROWDS OF UPWARDS OF 60,000 PEOPLE. FEATURE FILM OF EVENT LOADED WITH SHOTS OF ZAIRE FOR WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION IS PLANNED.

3. GROUP ATTEMPTING TO TRANSPORT FROM U.S. TO ZAIRE APPROXIMATELY 60,000 POUNDS OF EQUIPMENT WHICH, IF SHIPPED COMMERCIALY, WOULD COST SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND SUBSTANTIALLY ADD TO WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS HEAVY COST OVERRUN ON BUDGET.

4. PARISER REQUESTED U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN FORM OF USAF AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT FOR U.S. OT ZAIRE BY 14 SEPTEMBER. HE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT IF U.S. RESPONSE AFFIRMATIVE, GOZ, IN PERSON OF BISENGIMANA RWEMA, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY¹, WAS PREPARED TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE AMBASSADOR ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS.

5. FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS SAY THEY COULD HAVE ALL EQUIPMENT (ESTIMATED 60,000 POUNDS, 4,000 CU. FT) IN CENTRAL PLACE IN PHILADEPHIA-N.Y. AREA BY SEPT 12. (THEY SUGGESTED WILL GROVE NAVAL AIR STATION OR MCGUIRE AFB.) EQUIPMENT INCLUDES RECORDING EQUIPMENT (E.G. CONSOLE, RECORDING MACHINES), SOUND EQUIPMENT (E.G. MONITORS, 24 LOUD SPEAKER CABINETS), LIGHTING EQUIPMENT (E.G. 75 DIMMERS, AMPS., 100 FOOT STEEL CABLES), IN ADDITION TO GAS-POWERED GENERATOR AND FORK LIFT TRUCK. ENTIRE LIFT APPARENTLY WOULD NECESSITATE UTILIZATION OF C-141, THOUGH C-130 WOULD HELP.

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6. AMBASSADOR INDICATED DOUBT THAT USG WOULD SUPPORT COMMERCIAL OPERATION EVEN THOUGH GOZ INTEREST IS EVIDENT, BUT SAID HE WOULD SUBMIT DETAILS TO DEPARTMENT FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AND WOULD ASK FOR A DEFINITIVE REPLY CONCERNING FEASIBILITY OF PROJECT ASAP. PARISER SAYS CARGO FLIGHT DEADLINE IS SEPT 12.

7. COMMENT: ORGANIZERS ASSURE THAT--OTHER THAN ORIGINAL PAYMENT FOR RIGHTS--THEY HAVE NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH HENRY SCHWARTZ, V.P. OF VIDEO TECHNIQUES, AND KINGPIN OF ENTIRE FIGHT PREPARATIONS. SCHWARTS' NEFARIOUS DEALINGS WELL-KNOWN AND INFORMED SOURCES TELL US HE WAS ARRESTED LAST WEEK IN LONDON FOR FRAUD AND EXTORTION IN CONNECTION WITH LAST MARCH FOREMAN-NORTON FIGHT IN CARACAS.

8. GROUP ALSO INDICATES THEY ARE BEING FINANCED IN PART BY STEVE TOLBERT, MINISTER OF FINANCE IN LIBERIA AND BROTHER OF PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA.

9. AFTER SLOW START, GOZ NOW TAKING ACTIVE ROLE IN PROMOTION OF FESTIVAL WHICH WILL BE ACCESSIBLE TO MORE ZAIRIANS AT MUCH LOWER PRICES THAN FIGHT. (GOZ PERHAPS ALSO HOPES BALANCE THEIR LIMITED CONTROL OVER SCHWARTZ-RELATED FIGHT PREPARATIONS). PARISER IN CONTINUALLY CLOSE CONTACT WITH GOZ OFFICIALS CONCERNING FESTIVAL AND EMBASSY HAS NO REASON, AT MOMENT, TO DOUBT PARISER'S INFORMATION.

10. STUART LEVINE IS HANDLING FESTIVAL ORGANIZATION'S BUSINESS AFFAIRS IN STATES AND IF NEED BE COULD BE CONTACTED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT OFFICES OF "ZAIRE '74," 39 W. 55TH ST., N.Y.

11. RECOMMENDATION IN SEPTTEL FOLLOWS. HINTON

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